

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENNA 03807 041038Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 041012Z MAY 75 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5545
INFO USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T VIENNA 3807

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR UN
SUBJECT: UNHCR AND REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA

REF: STATE 104022

1. I SAW UNSYG WALDHEIM TODAY (MAY 4) SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA AND REGISTERED WITH HIM USG'S DISMAY AND DEEP CONCERN OVER UNHCR'S MAJOR SHORTCOMINGS THIS FAR IN ITS HANDLING OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM. I READ TO HIM TALKING POINTS CONTAINED PARA 2 REFTEL AND A WALDHEIM AIDE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES ON THESE POINTS. WALDHEIM IS THEREFORE FULLY AND CLEARLY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT USG EXPECTS IN WAY OF ACTION FROM UNHCR AND ABOUT IMPLICATION OF POSSIBLE FURTHER DELAYS FOR FUTURE US SUPPORT OF UNHCR. I ALSO STRESSED TO WALDHEIM IMPORTANCE OF SPEEDY ACTION BY UNHCR IN TERMS OF US CONGRESSIONAL AND DOMESTIC SCENES.

2. WALDHEIM EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE OVER SUBSTANCE OF US MESSAGE, INDICATING THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER OF UNHCR ASSISTANCE WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER PRIOR TO COMING TO VIENNA AND HAD ASSUMED THAT EVERYTHING WAS ON TRACK. HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU ASSURANCES OF HIS OWN WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE ON MATTER AND HIS AWARENESS OF GREAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENNA 03807 041038Z

IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO SUBJECT. HE ALSO ASKED ME TO PASS ON

THE EXPRESSION OF HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR PAST US ASSISTANCE
AND SUPPORT FOR UNHCR PROGRAMS.

3. DESCRIBING YOUR MESSAGE TO HIM AS A TIMELY ONE, HE SAID HE
WOULD TAKE UP MATTER WITH UN HIGH COMMISSIONER THIS AFTERNOOD,
FOLLOWING HIS OWN ARRIVAL IN GENEVA. I SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT IF
FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL WERE DESIRE,
OUR MISSION IN GENEVA COULD SERVE AS A CONTACT POINT. WALDHEIM
SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY BE IN TOUCH WITH USMISSION GENEVA ON
RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER LATER TODAY.
(CONTACT PERSON WILL BE DR. PROHASKA, PERSONAL AIDE TO WALDHEIM).

4. WALDHEIM INDICATED HIS CURRENT TRAVEL PLANS FORESEE HIS
DEPARTURE FROM GENEVA TUESDAY EVENING (MAY 6) AND ARRIVAL IN
NEW YORK WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. BUCHANAN

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